

**Stan Rivers, AAF-1**

NAS Information Architecture Committee

Symposium

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Speech given by Mr. Thomas Gassert, AOP-1

**Good morning.**

**It is my pleasure to be here today to discuss a subject that is very important to the future of the FAA - the concept of information exchange and interoperability. This concept has long been recognized within the various FAA organizations as something that needed to be addressed because of the number of increasing different information systems the agency has acquired over the years. As we move toward the 21st Century, the need for these systems to exchange information has become ever more important. The success of AF's development and implementation of its NAS Operations Concept hinges on the ability of its information systems to communicate (exchange information and interoperate).**

**This conference is critical because the necessity to address information exchange and interoperability is now crossing the boundaries of more**

**than one single organization and more than one line of business. This concept and the compelling need of information exchange will encompass the entire FAA as well as our external customers.**

**I would like to commend the NAS Information Architecture Committee (NIAC) for organizing this first ever NAS Common Data Architecture Conference and to pledge my support toward meeting its goals and objectives.**

**We share the same vision and the same set of goals when it comes to establishing a real open system environment. We need to promote the awareness and understanding of the process, how to get there, and what it will take from each of us to make it a reality. We need to build a collaborative process that emphasizes teamwork - the solution and success are not so much dependent on technology, but in collaboration. Most importantly, we want to draw requirements from our stakeholders and involve them in every step of the process.**

**AF operates and maintains a large number of NAS facilities and equipment that provide major services in support of navigation, surveillance, and communications. This requires an exchange of**

**information at all levels of NAS independent and sub-element management information systems. We require that the information is made accessible to a wide range of users that depends on the information to be accurate, secure, and timely. While other organizations have been talking about information standards, central data warehousing, and etc., AF is already addressing their needs through several current initiatives. The NAS Infrastructure Management System (NIMS), the ATS Corporate Information Management System (CIMS), the NAS Interoperability and Information Standards (NIIS), and the Telecommunications Information management System (TIMS) are just a few of the initiatives in operations or under development within AF.**

**The focus of the NIMS is the Future Concept of Operations that includes the development of our NAS infrastructure of Operation Control Centers (OCCs), Service Operations Centers (SOCs), and Maintenance Control Centers (MCCs) at the national and regional levels and the information architecture to deal with information definitions, use, and management.**

**The focus of the CIMS is to give us the capability to build the ATS National Data warehouse and the ATS Corporate Data Dictionary, develop and implement tools such as the Executive Information System (EIS) and the Regional Information System (REGIS). These tools allow us to utilize available data in our day-to-day operations and decision making process.**

**The focus of the TIMS is to give us a centralized telecommunications information warehouse for all FAA leased and owned telecommunications assets and circuit inventories. This allows us to consolidate existing Telecommunications Management and Operations (TM&O) information management systems into an integrated and standard-based platform, and provide automation tools, graphical, and query capabilities to conduct ordering, financial and circuit tracking, network optimization analysis, cost and budget allocations. Users from SMOs to Regional Offices are able to access TIMS via its ADTN2000 communications infrastructure.**

**The focus of the NIIS program is to address interoperability issues, provide standard descriptions of exchanged telecommunications**

**information, develop telecommunications information modeling, and coordinate the object registration process. This activity has also given us the opportunity to work with the NIAC in developing and validating the interoperability proof-of-concept**

**In summary, AF is marching toward the same goals as will be discussed here over the next two days. I am pleased that my AF NIIS Program Office (under AOP-600) is involved in this important activity. To avoid duplication of effort and to strengthen our consensus, I assure you that the AF team will continue to be a contributing member of NIAC.**

**It is encouraging to see such strong representation here today. By your very presence you have indicated your commitment to making this conference a success and taking a leadership role in guiding the FAA into an interoperable environment.**

**In closing I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak today and I look forward to continuing to be a part of this important endeavor.**

**Thank you**

